

LAND

DRAWER 11A

PIGEON CREEK HOME

71 2002.025 03050



# Indiana Pigeon Creek

## Land

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

Abstract of Title of Thomas Lincoln Farm  
James S. Hill, Cockport  
United States patents unto Thomas Linkern alias Lincoln the  
W $\frac{1}{2}$  SW Sec 32, T4S, R5W  
Signed by John T. Adams, June 6, 1827  
Certified copy (County records burned/Recorded May 2, 1829 81/197  
1853) Entered October 15, 1817.

To Charles Grigsby  
Thomas Lincoln and Sarah Lincoln, his wife, to Charles Grigsby  
Deed dated Feb. 20, 1830; recorded Feb. 15, 1831; cons. \$125.00 2/63  
W $\frac{1}{2}$  SW 32/4/5 Wm. Stark, J. P.

To Edley Brown  
Charles Grigsby and Matilda Grigsby, his wife, to Edley Brown  
W $\frac{1}{2}$  SW 32/4/5  
Deed dated Dec. 3, 1835; recorded Feb. 9, 1836; cons. \$200.00 3/75  
James Sans, J. P.

To James Sally  
Edley Brown and Martha Brown, his wife, to James Sally  
W $\frac{1}{2}$  SW 32/4/5  
Deed dated Feb. 4, 1837; recorded Jan. 21, 1838; cons. \$240.00 3/403  
James Lincoln, J. P.

To Joseph Gentry  
James Sally and Mary Sally, his wife, to Joseph Gentry  
W $\frac{1}{2}$  SW 32/4/5  
Deed dated Jan. 11, 1838; recorded Feb. 10, 1838; cons. \$240 4/30  
Wm. Grigsby, J. P.

North Half to Elijah Winkler  
Joseph Gentry and Mary Ann, his wife, to Elijah Winkler  
N $\frac{1}{2}$  W $\frac{1}{2}$  SW 32/4/5  
Deed dated Dec. 3, 1850; recorded Mar. 25, 1853; cons. \$100.00 14/622  
W. B. Smith, J. P.

To James Gentry  
Elijah Winkler to James Gentry  
N $\frac{1}{2}$  W $\frac{1}{2}$  SW 32/4/5  
Deed dated Mar. 23, 1853; recorded Sept. 26, 1853; cons. \$150.00 15/257  
S. W. Fairfield, Recorder

To William W. Oskins  
James Gentry and Eliza Gentry, his wife, to William W. Oskins  
N $\frac{1}{2}$  W $\frac{1}{2}$  SW 32/4/5  
Deed dated Dec. 24, 1853; recorded Jan. 17, 1854; Cons. \$100.00 15/450  
L. D. Pagett, J. P.

Southwest Quarter to William Oskins  
Joseph Gentry and Mary Ann Gentry, his wife, to William Oskins  
SW SW 32/4/5  
Deed dated June 3, 1853; recorded Sept. 6, 1853; cons. \$500.00 15/224  
Jas. H. Bryant, J. P.

To James Gentry  
William W. Oskins and Ann Oskins, his wife, to James Gentry  
W $\frac{1}{2}$  SW 32/4/5 and other land  
Deed dated April 29, 1858; recorded Apr. 30, 1858; cons. \$1300 19/88  
W. C. Adams, N. P.

To John Shillito Company.....  
James Gentry and Eliza Gentry, his wife, to Henry Lewis of Cincinnati, O.  
in trust for the use and benefit of him the said Henry Lewis, and  
John Shillito, Robert Mitchell, and Charles W. West, all of Cin.  
SW 32/4/5  
W $\frac{1}{2}$  SE 32/4/5, said tracts containing 240 acres 20/1871  
W $\frac{1}{2}$  NW 5/5/5, containing 66.33 acres;



Excepting and reserving the log house known as the Lincoln home which stands on the west half of the first described tract and which has been heretofore sold. Provided always and it is hereby agreed that this conveyance is made and the lands herein described are taken by the grantee herein subject to the right-of-way over and through said tracts heretofore granted by said James Gentry and wife to the Cincinnati, Rockport and Southern Railway Company.

$\frac{1}{4}$  SE Sec. 31/4/5--160 acres; entered by David Casebier, May 9, 1817.

Passing of title from Casebier to James Gentry is unknown.

James Gentry to Joseph Gentry

James Gentry to Joseph Gentry

Deed dated Mar. 11, 1834; recorded Mar. 29, 1834; cons. \$1.00 2/419

SE 31/4/5, except 20 acres sold to Lincoln--140 acres

James Wakefield, Recorder.

Joseph Gentry to Henry Lewis, et al: Shillito Co.

Deed dated Nov. 28, 1871; recorded Dec. 5, 1871, cons. \$2,000 33/437

$\frac{1}{4}$  SE 31/4/5, except 20 acres off north end

Perry Phillips, J. P.

Henry Lewis, et al. Plat of Lincoln City

Date April 23, 1872; recorded April 23, 1872.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

embraces SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  and W  $\frac{1}{2}$  32/4/5, and

60 acres South end  $\frac{1}{4}$  SE 31/4/5, and

W  $\frac{1}{2}$  NW 5/5/5

by Elias H. Sabin the duly authorized agent for Henry Lewis, et al., before L. E. Riggs, Recorder, April 23, 1872.

Then follows sale of certain lots in Lincoln City; court judgments; sale for taxes accrued against estate of said John Shillito, Henry Lewis, et al., and parts into the ownership of Sen. S. Dale, trustee et al. Wills, etc., annexed.

However:--

November 29, 1879, Henry Lewis et al., deeded one-half acre in Block 58, Lincoln City, to the Commissioners of Spencer county, Ind. "for the purpose of securing to our common country and holding sacred the grave and monument of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, mother of Abraham Lincoln," David J. Axton, J. M. Gwaltney and John Harrison Huffman, Comrs 42/380

Note 1. The tradition that James Pedigo, of Rockport, building a paling fence about the Nancy Hanks Lincoln grave is verified by his widow, Mrs. Ann Pedigo, now living at Malden, Mo. He took the palings out from Rockport in 1878 and cut the posts and rails from a nearby tree; but the fence was carried away in a very short time. There are other traditions about local markers but verification from apparently reliable sources do now warrant mentioning them.

Note 2. Among them being Mattie (? See, Mattie is said to have gone west in the spring of 1879) and James Grigsby, Allen Brooner, Mrs. Ruth Crawford Jennings, Capt. S. F. Johnson, Capt. C. W. Medcalf, some from Gentryville, Alfred H. Yates, General Veatch and others from Rockport. There was some discussion as between the grave of Mrs. Brooner and Mrs. Lincoln but a decision was reached and Mr. Yates set the foundation in their presence. Now about Mrs. Hannah Gentry Romine!

Gen. Veatch was a personal friend of such men as Postmaster Gilkey, Joseph C. Richardson, S. E. Kercheval, Capt. J. W. Warriner, the DeBauers and many others prominent in public life.

Note 1. The tradition that James Pedigo, of Rockport, built a paling fence about the grave in 1878 is verified by his widow, Mrs. Ann Pedigo, now living at Malden, Mo. There is also some tradition of other fences given the grave by Spencer county persons, but officials of the Spencer county Historical Society consider the tradition of the paling fence as the correct one.

Extracts from Gen. James Veach Papers

in possession of

Miss Pet Enlow, Rockport, Ind.

-----

Letter-Veach to Fortune Sept. 21, 1881 - Boonville

" I think James Gentry Snr. purchased the Lincoln farm and Charles Grigsby now in Missouri was the first occupant of the house left by the Lincolns."

Letter - Veach to Dr. I. L. Milner, Treasurer of Committee

Evansville  
June 1, 1881

" I received from you through Charlie \$11.00 contributions collected for the Lincoln grave. I received from W. T. Mason 25cts and of R. T. Kercheval \$1.00 making \$12.25 and I have expended \$14.40

I have the promise of James Hammond of Dale to send me \$2.00 which will cover amount expended within 15 cts.

Our secretary, J. D. Armstrong suggests that on Saturday June 4th we make an effort to secure further contributions from the crowd visiting Lincoln City.

I will not be able to be on hand.

Will you select some ~~who~~ are going, to make a collection on that day."





Lincoln Monument at  
Lincoln City, Indiana.



## LINCOLN SPRING

This Picture shows Elijah Grigsby, ~~great~~ grand-nephew of Aaron Grigsby who married Sarah Lincoln, standing beside the spring from which the Lincoln children are said to have carried water. ( Elijah Grigsby to J.B. MacHarg, June, 1929 )

~~June 1929~~



Triple Top High Land



This marker designates the site of the Lincoln Cabin at Lincoln City, Indiana, in which Sarah Bush Lincoln lived from 1819 to 1830.

# LITTLE PIGEON ROAD

One of the roads of the settlement often traversed  
by members of the Lincoln family.

June 1929





## Lincoln Farm Was Part of Warrick

7-10-32  
In 1816 Thomas Lincoln and family moved from their Kentucky home near Hodgenville, Ky., and located in Spencer county, Indiana.

We recall several years ago an address that Judge Roscoe Kiper, Boonville, made in which he said that Thomas Lincoln, so often referred as being shiftless, must have been a man of foresight after all, for when he located in southern Indiana, he bought a farm near a main highway. At that time there was a fairly good road running from Evansville through Gentryville, to Corydon, afterwards the state capital.

The old Lincoln farm at first was located not in Spencer county, but what was then Warrick county. Shortly after Thomas Lincoln brought his family to Indiana, he made a journey to the government land office at Vincennes where he secured the title to the land that he had bought. The deed showed that the Lincoln farm was in Hurricane township, Warrick county.

With the formation of Spencer county many county boundaries were changed. Today Lincoln City is located in Carter township, Spencer county.

So from a historical standpoint, Boonville and Warrick county have a right to claim the Lincolns, for in reality no history of Warrick county would be complete which did not take into consideration the fact that the Lincolns first lived in Warrick county and that the change in county boundary lines threw them into Spencer county.

The Lincoln farm, now a part of the state park, for many years was owned by Robert Ferguson. Ferguson married an aunt of the present editor of the Boonville Enquirer.

When the writer was a small boy living around Buffalo, he used to walk over to Lincoln City and fish in the old pond near the Southern railroad station. At that time the grave of Lincoln's mother was nothing less than a briar patch. There have been many changes since then and today the park wherein is the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, is one of the most beautiful in the state and it is predicted that in time it will be a national park. *Boonville Enquirer*





OLD POST FORD ACROSS THE WABASH RIVER.

The route by which the Lincolns went into Illinois from Indiana is a question in dispute. Some of the acquaintances of the family still living in Indiana claim that they followed the line marked on our map (page 489). Others say that they went from Gentryville to the Old Post Ford across the Wabash. Though this road is much longer and leads across several large water-courses, it would give the travellers the advantage of a visit to Vincennes, a most important point in the State, and from there they could follow the highway between Vincennes and St. Louis as far as what is now the main line of the Illinois Central.



THE OLD SWIMMING HOLE.

A secluded part of Little Pigeon Creek, not far from Gentryville, where Lincoln, Dennis Hanks, John Johnston, the Gentry boys, and others of the neighborhood used to bathe. It is still pointed out as "the place where Abe went in swimming."



LINCOLN FARM IN INDIANA.

Present appearance of the quarter section of government land in Spencer County, Indiana, entered by Thomas Lincoln, October 15, 1817, view looking east. Thomas Lincoln selected this tract in 1816, and, to identify it, he blazed the trees and piled up brush at the corners to establish boundary lines. When he returned with his family he was obliged to cut his way to the spot chosen for his cabin and to fell trees to find space for the "half-face camp" in which he first lived. This land was entered under the old credit system. Later Mr. Lincoln gave up to the United States the east half, and the amount paid on it was passed to his credit to complete paying for the west half. The patent issued for the latter tract was dated June 6, 1827. The above picture is from a photograph taken for this Magazine.



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CARTER TOWNSHIP.

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THE OLD SWIMMING HOLE.

A secluded part of Little Pigeon Creek, not far from Gentryville, where Lincoln, Dennis Hanks, John Johnston, the Gentry boys, and others of the neighborhood used to bathe. It is still pointed out as "the place where Abe went in swimming."



LINCOLN FARM IN INDIANA.

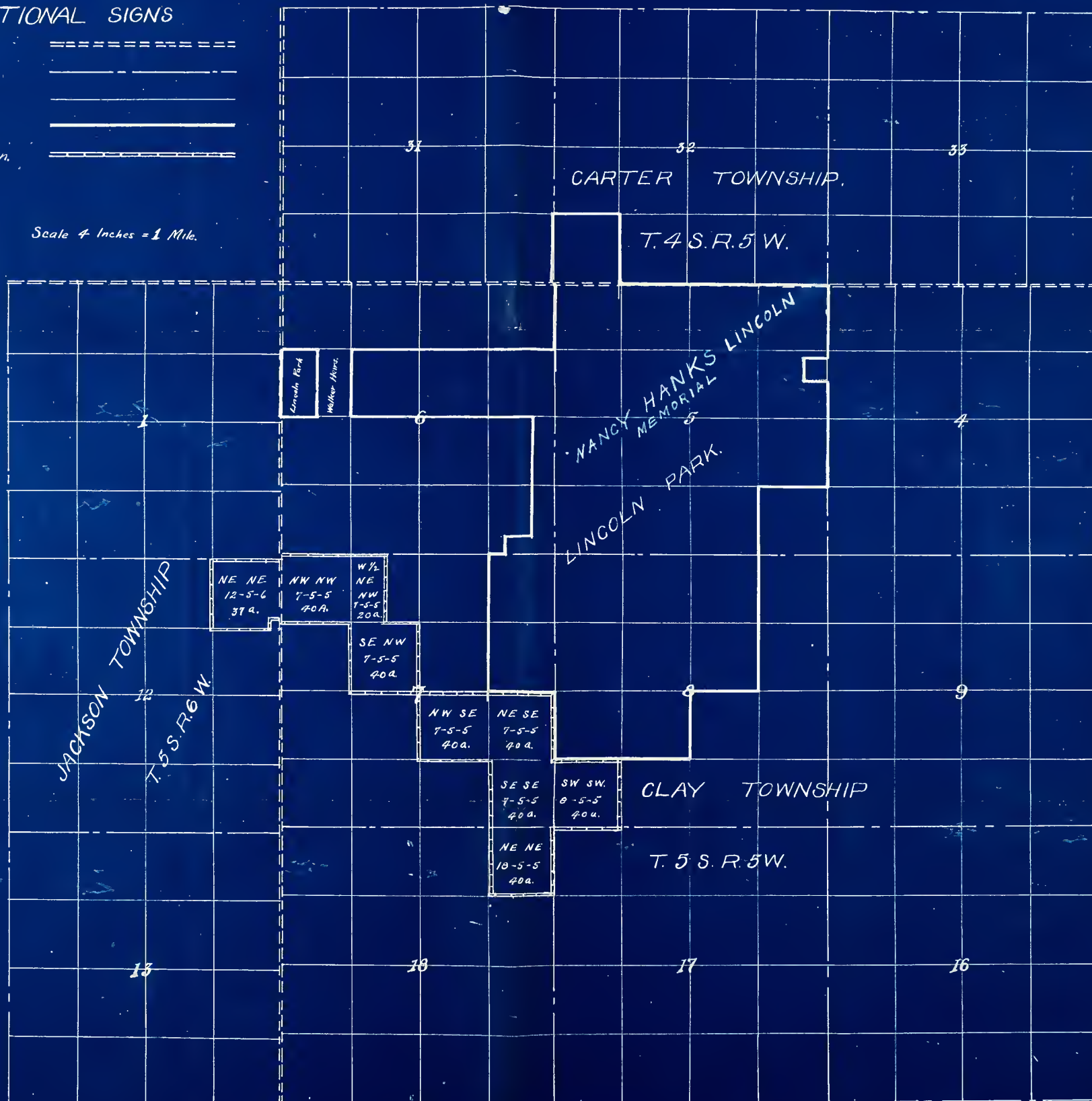
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# COVENTIONAL SIGNS

Township Line =====  
 Section Line -----  
 1/4 & 1/2 Sec. Line -----  
 Park Boundary =====  
 Proposed Addition. =====

Scale 4 Inches = 1 Mile.



*Don J. Jones*  
*Ind.*

Prepared for Harry C. Harman  
 Mar. 8-1933  
 Indianapolis Ind.

# CONVENTIONAL SIGNS

Township Line



Section Line



$\frac{1}{4}$  &  $\frac{1}{2}$  Sec. Line



Park Boundary



Proposed Addition.



Scale 4 Inches = 1 Mile.



## The MONITOR

CHARLES T. BAKER  
Editor-Owner-Publisher

That Newsy Paper of Grandview, Indiana

July 7, 1933.

Dr. Louis A. Warren,  
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Sir and Friend: Your letter of the 28th received and enjoyed its contents. I wish I had more time and more liberty (from the office) for this research work, as getting matter by correspondence is surely slow and not always satisfactory. I need to spend several hours in Rockport hunting old newspaper files and do not know how soon I can get away for it.

I am enclosing some notes obtained from an abstract for title to Block 19, Lincoln City, Ind., which you find interesting. I certainly find them interesting--especially in that they uncover a new (for me) Lincoln land holding, i.e., 20 acres off the north end of the David Casebier entry. I would like to trace that down on the court records to learn who bought it, etc. I have been under the impression that Lincoln also owned some land to the east or southeast of his entry, bought with the cash realized from the sale of Bulger, the horse.

In the abstract of title, I am wondering if the Lincoln associations or the location of the junction of the railroad branches caused the John Shillito Company of Cincinnati to invest there. Am of the opinion that it was the railroad; and the Shillito investment undoubtedly caused Prof. John Wyttenbach to re-publish his poem; and this poem, like the one published upon the subject of the grave of Thomas Lincoln was undoubtedly the feature that caused the awakening of public sentiment for honoring the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln.

I find it quite a task these days to assemble the various personal contacts and features and merge them into a congenial whole to make a true, well rounded history.

The building of the railroad to Lincoln City did not immediately bring recognition to the worth-while project of marking the N. H. L. grave though it may have ultimately been a factor. Likewise, if there was an "Armstrong Marker" erected in 1874, why the need of assembling about twenty people there in 1879 to designate the grave before the erection of the Studebaker marker? That there was a sandstone slab at the grave I do get from tradition, but it was so, lightly regarded that it was broken up and carried away upon the setting up of the Studebaker marker. I want to give full credit for everything worthy and yet I do not wish to give credit to unworthy efforts.

Am enclosing a copy of my article, which I may revise considerably, as far as I have gone for your perusal; and any suggestions or corrections will be heartily accepted--or any additions. Will be pleased to have you return it with your next letter--if you have occasion to write-- as I may need to mail it to others yet--descendants of close neighbors, etc.--for further verification before publication. When I started at work on it I thought I would have it published ere this but find I had better wait and seek more detail and verification.

Thank you very much for the information concerning Crawford and Grigsbys.

Yours very respectfully,

Charles T. Baker

July 14, 1933

Mr. Charles T. Baker  
Grandview, Indiana

My dear Mr. Baker:

Thank you very much for the enclosure in your last letter and I think you are making a very good approach at the study of the markings of Lincoln's mother's grave. I think, however, you should take recognition of the fact that as early as February 19, 1870, Capt. Wartman attempted to gather funds for a memorial and as I have suggested, there is a bare possibility that Mr. Armstrong was in some way cooperating with Mr. Wartman in this effort.

As soon as I get back from my vacation, I will try and send you more material relating to the marking of the grave.

I have known of the extra twenty acres owned by Thomas Lincoln for some time. It was situated at the extreme north corner of his own property. The last time I was in Lincoln City, I went over the tract with Mr. Wiede, then the custodian. I do not think, however, that this is generally known. I have made one or two little comments on your sheets which I feel should be corrected.

Very sincerely yours,

Director

LAF:AMM  
Encs.

Lincoln National Life Foundation



## LINCOLN STATE PARK

According to publicity material received from the state conservation department, the recreational Lincoln State Park now contains 1,166 acres, and in this portion of the park is a part of the Lincoln farm.

The part of the Lincoln farm in this state park is the "short eighty" Thomas Lincoln bought of John Carter (see Monitor of January 11, 1934).

Across highway number 162 is the memorial park containing the grave of Abraham Lincoln's mother, Mrs.

Nancy Hanks Lincoln, and as one leaves the highway to ascend the incline to her grave a marker with this wording is found:

"You are facing the wooded knoll on which sleeps Nancy Hanks Lincoln, mother of the President who lived in this Hoosier environment during the fourteen formative years of his life from 1816 to 1830.

"Beyond to the north, is marked the site of the humble log cabin where she led him for a little while along the path to greatness."

This cabin site and its accompanying markers are on the eighty acres Thomas Lincoln entered and made final payment thereon.

The "short eighty" bought from John Carter was not owned by Thomas Lincoln during the lifetime of the President's mother. The short eighty is in the recreational state park and the state has added numerous attractions for campers and visitors; and you will enjoy your visit to this part of the Lincoln State Park.

Monitor - Sept 2, 1937.

## Index

## Little Pigeon Creek Settlement

COPY OF LETTER from G.W.Turnham  
4610 Central Ave, Tampa, Florida  
Sept 8 1953. To

Mrs S.G.Johnson  
Dale Indiana

A small log school house with clapboard roof, erected in the latter part of the year 1840, was the only building within the original plat of the town which under the name of Elizabeth, was surveyed by Wilson Huff on the 26th day of April 1843.

Part of the land belonging to Jas. Hammond and Comencing at a stone on the line dividing the North and South halves of Sec. 17 town 4 South of Range 5 West. Running thence West 38 poles thence North 23 22/100, East 38 poles, thence South 23 22/100 poles to place of beginning, and containing 8, one half acre lots, numbered 1.21314151617181

The remainder of the land belonging to Wm.K.Jones contained an equal area, and containing lots 9 to 16, inclusive, A total area of 11 acres 4 72/100 rods including 2 streets, Main and Hammond, an addition to the original plat was surveyed by A.J.Wells Oct 15 th. 1853. Known as Gabriel Medcalfs addition containing 16 lots numbered 17 to 32 inclusive ( 1/2 acre lots) At this time the population was less than 30.--;

September 11 and 12 1855 another addition known as Jas Hammond addition- embracing 28 lots 4.8 which contained 1/2 acre each 8 lots 304/1000 of acre each, and the remainder 30/100 of acre each, and numbered 33 to 60 inclusive Survey was made by A.J. Wells, Who also made a 4th survey Apr 10/1856 known as L Jones addition Lots 1 to 12 each 7 1/2 X 10 poles. Followed by Medcalf & Wood, addition Sept 1859. 30 lots (1 to 30 inclusive) 17.18. 19.20.29 and 30 each 1/2 acre Were all on S.side of Walnut St. Each of the other lots 75 poles. Total number of lots 102 or about 48 acres. ---I commenced to copy what I had written in 1872 but found it required too much writing and much of which would be of no interest. Less than 300 residents at that date. Mention of the two tobacco ware houses, J. Hammond and J. Anderson. U.B. Church M.E. Church. The C.P. Church had been razed and a new church was being built. ( I think the old church stood on the corner afterward occupied as a store by Father. John and myself ) No doubt several persons in and about Dale yet who can trace its history back to that date and perhaps beyond that time.

(SEE SHEET TWO )

Copied March 1954 O.V.B.



( Sheet number two---Copy of G.W.Turnham letter.1933.)

As to the old home. The frame part was moved to Dale and located N.W. of C.P. Church, South of and near Wm. Wood's residence. Mr. Carleton lived there at one time.

The log house was rebuilt on N.W. Cor. of the farm where Gentryville road turns from West to South. It was not a two story house and if provisions or anything else was kept in attic, I have no recollection of it. I do not remember any way of getting to the attic. ( This Log house is still standing on farm at Dale, and is where Abe Lincoln came to work as farm hand, and where he read the law book of 1824, when he worked for David Turnham.---See letter to O.V.B. Dale Reporter 1933.)

The only school house in Dale that I remember was South of Andersons tobacco warehouse, on the same side of street, I attended school about one mile South Dale, about commencement of the Civil War.--Margret Kenlow ? was teaching. The school seems somehow associated with the name Blair, perhaps Blair school house.

I also attended school about the same distance N.W. of Dale, taught by Jass Wright (Col Wright) He left the school and enlisted in the army. I think school term was not finished--- There was a well in vacant lot adjoining the Blair school on the North to which we often went. This well may enable some of the older residents to locate the spot where the school house was.- A History of Perry County by T.J. DeLaHunt (1915) Says John W. Ricks was the leading Merchant at Rome for several years, and established a chain of branch stores at various other points, owned a grist and saw mill. making the power at Poison creek. Having its origin & name from a spring. The waters of which was believed to have caused the death of an early hunter. about the time of the survey 1805. Ricks was an extensive pork packer- Did no Slaughtering himself-but bought the meat from farmers-who at the approach of winter gathered their hogs in large numbers and drove them to Rome for slaughtering. In each season Ricks usually sent South at least one boat load of 25000 pounds of pork besides oats, corn and produce, Also sometimes sent live cattle. Became a rich man by his trading ventures. (Ricks operated the trading post in the John Jones Log Cabin South of Dale .See page No. 272 Goodspeed History of Warrick, Spencer, and Perry County. Year 1885.) O.V.B.

*Mr. L. Garrison is working at Santa Clara again.*  
*O.V.B.*





# Outdoor Indiana.



DECEMBER 1958

20 CENTS

# OUTDOOR INDIANA

**HAROLD W. HANDLEY**

Governor

**CRAWFORD F. PARKER**

Lieutenant-Governor and Commissioner of Agriculture

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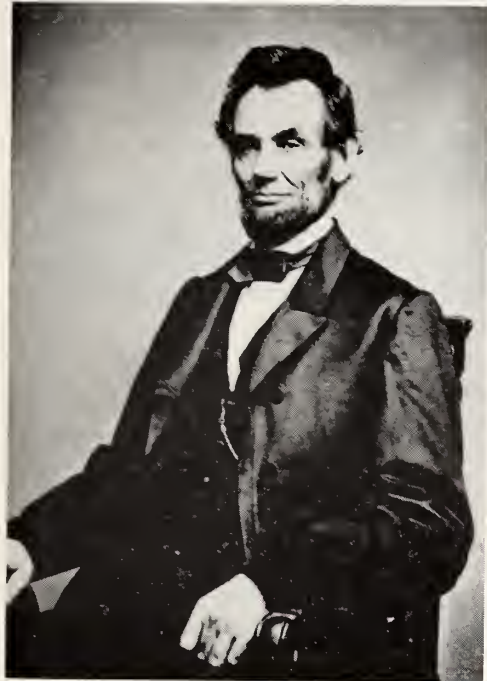
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## COVER

Indiana's state bird, the cardinal, can be seen and heard in Indiana the year 'round. In March, 1933, the General Assembly designated the *Richmondia cardinalis cardinalis* as the official state bird. They nest in thickets and low saplings.





# *A. Lincoln,*

## *HIS*

## *HOOSIER*

## *BOYHOOD -*

*Photo courtesy of the  
Lincoln National Life  
Foundation, Ft. Wayne.*

**H**ISTORY BOOKS and Lincoln biographies are crammed full of Lincoln's life and exploits in Illinois, but the part Indiana played in shaping this man's life is often neglected. However, Indiana might claim the most credit in Lincoln's development, for it was here that Lincoln spent his adolescence and formative years. The Lincoln family lived 14 years in Indiana—from the time Abe was seven, until he became a man at 21.

In mid autumn of 1816, Thomas Lincoln left Kentucky and crossed the Ohio river to Indiana. He stopped at the farm of Francis Posey where he left some whiskey and his tools, promising to return for them later. Armed with an ax, hunting knife, and determination, Thomas made his way 16 miles into the brush, stopping at what was to become the Lincoln family's new homestead. Here, he marked the boundaries of the area he was to occupy, and then returned to Kentucky.

At the approach of December, 1816, Thomas Lincoln and his family left Kentucky and began the tiresome trek to the Indiana wilderness. Leaving their two horses on the Kentucky side of the Ohio, the family was ferried across the river. Here they stopped at Posey's farm to borrow a wagon to carry them and their few household belongings to the new home.

### **THE NEW "HOME."**

Thomas hastily built a "half-faced" shelter for his wife, son, and daughter. The shelter, only 14 feet wide, was open on one end, and a fire was kept burning there for cooking and heat. (Depending upon the wiles of the wind, the fire often provided more smoke than heat for the shelter's occupants.) Luckily, wild turkeys and other game were plentiful, so the Lincoln family had a sufficient, though monotonous, diet.



### VISITORS APPEAR.

In the spring of 1817, Thomas returned to Kentucky for swine. He was accompanied on his return by Thomas Sparrow and 17-year-old Dennis Hanks. In the following autumn, Betsy and Thomas Sparrow, aunt and uncle of Nancy Lincoln, and Dennis Hanks, went to the Lincoln home to live. By this time, Thomas Lincoln had built a cabin 18 feet wide and 20 feet long. Though it was the largest cabin the Lincoln's had ever had, it contained no door or window, had only a dirt floor, and the roof was not completed before the arrival of winter. Thomas, Nancy, and their children spent the winter of 1817-18 in the unfinished cabin, and Thomas and Betsy Sparrow and Dennis occupied the "half-face" camp.

When the men were not hunting, they found time to clear about six acres of ground upon which they raised a little corn and other vegetables. (The nearest mill for grinding corn, however, was 17 miles away.)

In the autumn of 1818, tragedy struck the tiny settlement in the form of the "milk sickness." No cure was known, and anyone afflicted usually died. Nancy Lincoln visited and cared for a neighbor woman who lived a half mile away. But the neighbor died, and Nancy too fell ill. After seven days of illness, Nancy died—in October, 1818. No marker was placed to indicate where she lay, and none was ever erected during the lifetime of her husband or son. (Later, a marker

was erected on the approximate site of her grave.)

Living was, at best, difficult. One-room cabins often contained husband, wife, children, guests, relatives, and hired men. It was often impossible to wash body or clothes for months on end. Men and boys had deerskin clothing, and the women and girls wore garments of a wool and flax combination called linsey-woolsey. Nearly everyone went barefoot until winter necessitated hide moccasins. Men, women (and preachers too) drank copious amounts of whiskey. Nearly all chewed, smoked, or snuffed tobacco, and women with corn-cob pipes were a common sight. Profanity was emphatic and widely used.

But through the muck of frontier living arose a sense of fair play, decency, and honesty. Courts and law were respected, and the desire to educate children was intense among the people. Churches were organized whenever there were settlers enough to form a congregation.

When there were enough children in the community to start a school in 1818, Andrew Crawford opened one a few miles from the Lincoln cabin. The school, made of unhewn logs, was a subscription school, meaning the school master took his pay in farm produce or skins. Its window was an opening in the wall made by leaving out a log. The open place was often covered with greased paper—admitting the light, but keeping out some of the wind. When Crawford gave up

his school after one season, Abe, then 10 years old, did not return to school until he was 14 or 15.

In 1819, Thomas Lincoln returned to Kentucky. He went directly to Elizabethtown, where lived Sarah Johnston, a widow with three children. Thomas had courted Sarah before his marriage to Nancy, and during this visit, he suggested they get married right away.

Sarah Johnston agreed to the proposal, but said she had to pay off some small debts first. Thomas paid the debts that evening, and the next morning, December 2, 1819, the two were married.

Thomas and Sarah, with her three children, started for Indiana taking along goods and furniture accumulated by the thrifty Sarah. Arriving at the filthy cabin near Pigeon Creek, Sarah was aghast at what she saw. Soon, under the direction of Sarah, Thomas and Dennis Hanks had finished the roof, put in a window (of greased paper) and added a door. The children were washed and combed, the cabin cleaned, and bedding was placed on the pole and clapboard bedsteads. Sarah contributed good cooking utensils, and Thomas overhauled the fireplace and made some needed

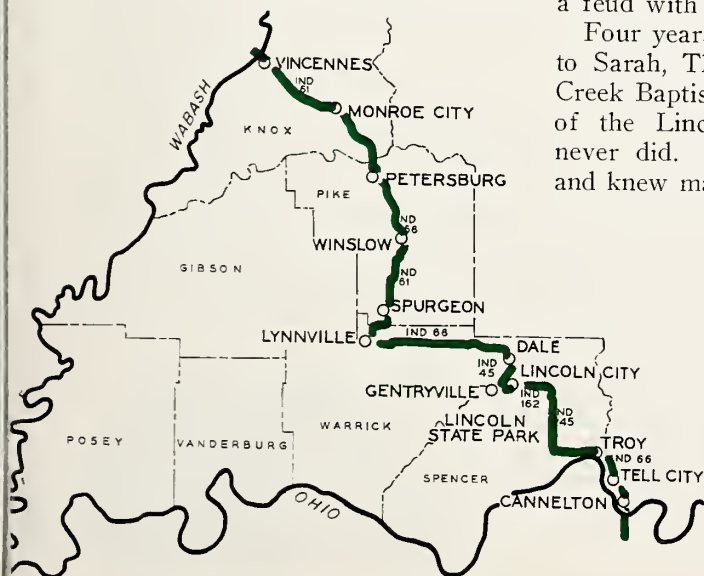
furniture. Eight people now lived in the cabin.

A year or two after Sarah arrived, another school, run by Azel Dorsey, was started about four miles away. It was at Dorsey's school that Lincoln made his greatest advances in reading, writing, and speaking. Indeed, he did most of the writing for everyone in the settlement. All his schooling, in both Indiana and Illinois, supposedly totaled less than one year.

Young Abe was well liked by nearly everyone, and his kindness and honesty were clearly evident to those around him. But Abe and his father got along badly, with Abe often bearing the brunt of severe whippings. Reports, however, indicate that Thomas Lincoln was also kindly, likeable, and well loved by those close to him. It is possible that Abe was so absorbed by his books that he did not always turn a willing hand to farming and other work.

Abe was generally the center of attraction at gatherings. He told jokes and stories, sung (rather poorly) and made speeches. Some of his essays and poems were widely known in the settlements, and one scandalous story involving a mix-up of brides and grooms after a wedding nearly started a feud with the offended family.

Four years after Thomas' marriage to Sarah, Thomas joined the Pigeon Creek Baptist Church. Though others of the Lincoln family joined, Abe never did. Abe did read the Bible and knew many of the scriptures, but



**The Lincoln family trail through Indiana.**





he never did openly profess his views on religion.

Young Abe drank, as did nearly everyone at the time, but he had a dislike for drunkenness, and generally drank only to be sociable. And though profanity was widespread and vociferous, Abe never fell into that habit. He did, however, have a fondness for certain types of "funny stories," which he enjoyed reading or telling to his eager boyhood companions.

Lincoln was beginning to discover the world outside the limits of the Pigeon Creek settlement. In 1825, he saw something of river life when he helped James Taylor operate a ferry across the Ohio river near Anderson creek. He also began helping other farmers with corn grinding, fence building, butchering, and other chores.

Abe became interested in law when he had a chance to see its inner workings—directed at him. Abe had built a scow which he used to take passengers into the mid Ohio to catch passing steamers. But a ferryman, a Kentuckian, took Lincoln before a justice of the peace charging that he had violated a Kentucky statute requiring licenses for ferrying passengers across the river. Justice of the Peace "Squire" Pate decided, however, that taking passengers to mid-stream was not the same as ferrying them across. Lincoln received no punishment, and was allowed to continue his mid-stream ferrying. Abe was intrigued by law now, and often

went to this rural court to listen to cases and court procedure.

James Gentry had come to the Pigeon Creek settlement in 1818 from Kentucky. He acquired more than 2,000 acres of land, and became one of the richest men in the area. He kept a stock of goods at his house, and soon a blacksmith set up a shop nearby, and other cabins were built there. Thus was born the town of Gentryville, the social and trading center of the area.

Gentryville was only about a mile and a half from the Lincoln cabin, and Abe often went there to be with the other men and boys who craved companionship. Soon Abe and Gentry became friends, and Abe sometimes did odd jobs for Gentry and his partner.

In April, 1828, when Abe was 19 years old, he got his first chance to make a long journey. Gentry hired the powerful, trustworthy Abe to accompany his son Allen on a flatboat to New Orleans to market produce. New Orleans was far different than anything Abe had ever seen or imagined. He saw tropical fruits and vegetables. Huge three-masters nestled against the teaming wharves. Peoples from all nations exhibited strange dress, customs, and language.





When the produce had been sold, the boys journeyed back upstream to Indiana in a luxurious steamboat—the fare compliments of James Gentry. Though Lincoln was outwardly unchanged by his exposure to metropolitan life, he no longer was satisfied with his existence around Pigeon Creek. In 1829, Abe asked William Wood for help in acquiring a job on one of the big river steamers. Wood declined, saying he thought Abe too young to begin such a career. So Abe remained, continuing with the familiar farm chores for his father and other farmers, and doing more reading and writing than ever. He often went to court in Rockport or Boonville (both had populations totaling near 100) making notes of the legal transpirations.

#### **GOODBYE INDIANA!**

On January 20, 1828, Thomas Lincoln decided to leave the Pigeon Creek cabin and move to Illinois. John Hanks had since returned to Kentucky, then moved to Illinois. Thomas had heard reports of “new” land in Illinois, and also that the “milk sickness” was soon expected. Thomas and Sarah spent the winter of 1829-30 preparing for the trip. Sarah’s property in Elizabethtown was sold and the Pigeon Creek farm was sold to James Gentry. Lincoln

also sold his livestock and bought oxen and a wagon for his journey west.

When Abe left Indiana in 1830, his political thinking, and ideals had already been set in motion by political “stump speeches” and handbills—the campaigning of that era. ●

## **Lincoln Year Celebrations**

*Early in 1958, the Indiana Lincoln Foundation was formed as an organization dedicated to commemorating Lincoln’s life in Indiana. The following programs are just a few of the many planned in connection with the Lincoln sesquicentennial year and the preservation of the American way.*

**A** RE-ENACTMENT of the Lincoln migration to Indiana with appropriate celebrations in towns along the way.

**R**E-ENACTMENT of the Lincoln inaugural train from Springfield to Indianapolis, possibly with coaches of that era to make the run.

**M**R. EDWARD PIERRE has been commissioned to draw plans for a Lincoln Museum—a national shrine in tribute to the Civil War President.

**B**ECAUSE Japanese school children have voted Lincoln one of the greatest living men, the Foundation will distribute brochures about Lincoln to these children in Japan.

**D**R. LEE NORVELLE will cast and direct at Indiana University the prize winning Lincoln play “Marked Corners.” This play will appear in major cities all over Indiana.



Monument to a bygone era of unsightliness.

## *A Run On The Banks*

# MICHIANA WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

By WALTER THOMPSON, Editor

**A**T LAST, someone who has said "something ought to be done about that mess" did something about it!

"That mess" was the deplorably polluted St. Joseph river in South Bend, and the river's trash filled, undergrowth-choked banks. The people who "did something about it"

were the Joe Does and civic leaders of South Bend who formed the Michiana Watershed Association to accomplish their task.

Two years ago, a group of civic-interested men appraised the situation and decided to act. These men were concerned with improving the St. Joseph river and its tributaries, and



far are the 3,000-acre Crosley estate, Hindostan Falls, more land for the Pigeon River tract and river access areas. Other land acquisition will follow.

Revenue received from all licenses during the fiscal year was \$1,808,890—an increase of \$270,963 over the preceding year. 840,684 licenses were sold.

•   •

**T**ED WHEATON, secretary of the Mt. Vernon Conservation Club, stated some interesting facts about the Posey county clubs in a recent letter. He wrote the clubs purchase adult quail for releasing in the spring, raise several brooders of quail and pheasants, and have a habitat program with farmers in the area. The county council meets once a month, and works with all clubs in the county. Three clubs, Mt. Vernon, Wabash, and St. Phillips, all sponsor junior rifle clubs teaching the youngsters gun safety and marksmanship.

Nice work!

•   •

**T**WO PROJECT LEADERS have been appointed to fill vacancies in the Pittman-Robertson restoration program. Patrick David Karns, a graduate of the University of Michigan with a degree in wildlife management, will serve St. Joseph, Elkhart, Marshall, Kosciusko, Fulton, Miami, Cass, Carroll, Linton, and Howard counties. Robert E. Moses, graduate of the

University of Arizona with a degree in wildlife management, will serve Lake, Porter, LaPorte, Newton, Jasper, Starke, Tippecanoe, Pulaski, White, Benton, and Warren counties.

Karns and Moses will head the P-R restoration program and will be working with conservation clubs, county agents, the Soil Conservation Service, the Agricultural Stabilization Committee, and landowners who are interested in setting aside portions of their farms for wildlife habitat restoration.



Hank Kopkey, of Winamac, bagged this 235 lb. nine point buck with one arrow at a distance of 20 yards. It was shot at 3:30 P.M. in Pulaski county. Venison steak, anyone?

#### *Attention Readers:*

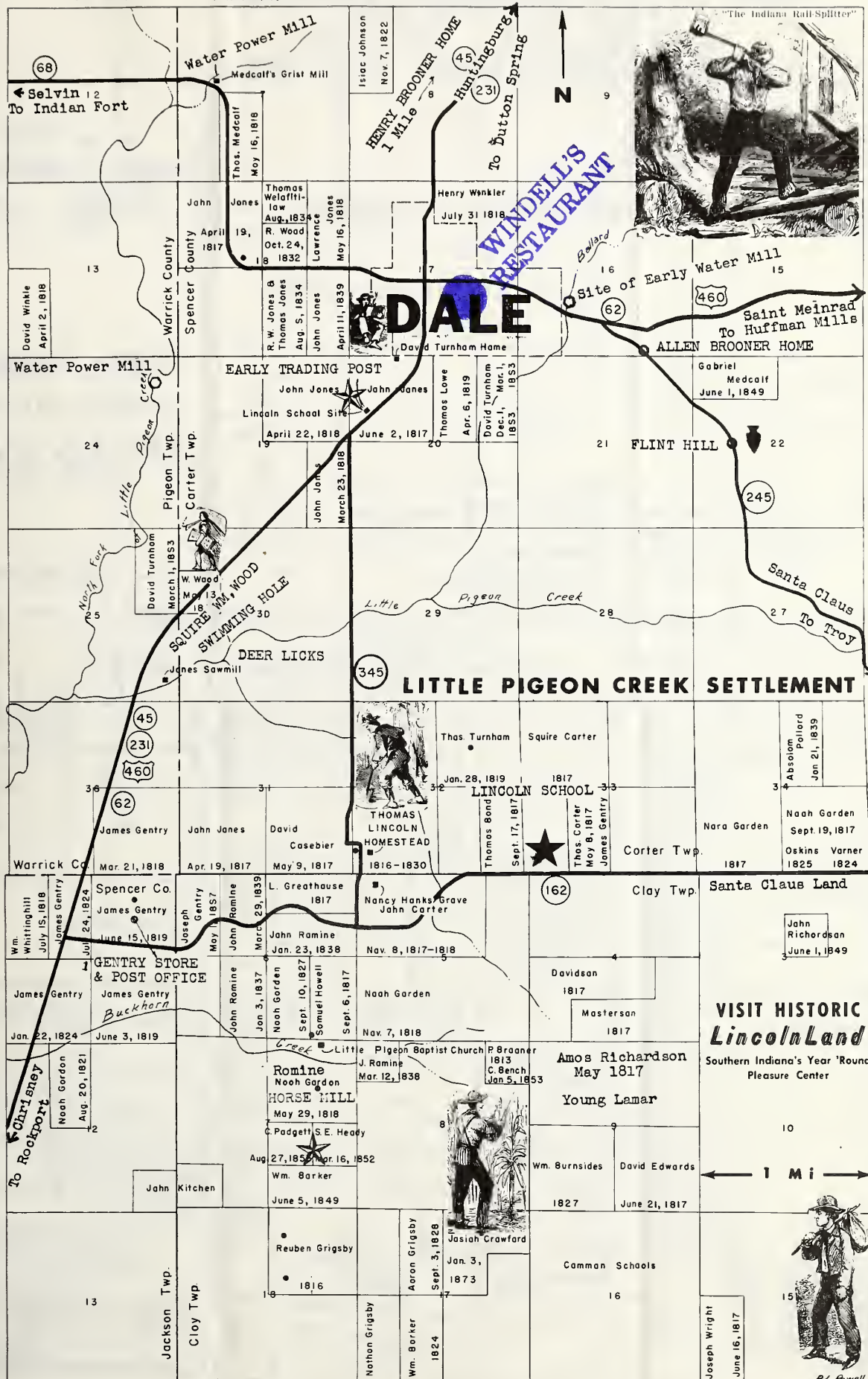
*Do you have any old photos showing bygone hunting and fishing scenes, early harvest scenes, or other shots pertaining to conservation suitable for publication? If so, send a short description of each photo (and approximate date) and a self addressed envelope for the return of your photos.*







R.5 W.







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Schuler

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Jackson

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Knox

Gibson

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Wagner

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